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By WILLIAM MAVOR, LL. D.

Vicar of Hurley, Berkſhire, and Chaplain to the Earl of Dumfries.

Extract from the MONTHLY REVIEW, for June, 1799.

"In preſenting this work to the public, Dr. Mavor has not only made a valuable and much wanted addition to the ſchool library, but has furniſhed a book which is well calculated for the parlour window, and for the ſhelf in the room behind the ſhop of thoſe tradeſmen who devote to reading ſome of the hours which they can ſteal from buſineſs; juſtly perſuaded that money without knowledge is an acquiſition of little value. As we cannot be ignorant of the dullneſs and apparent ſterility of the initiatory paths to ſcience, we are pleaſed with every thing that tends to enliven juvenile ſtudy, and to excite an early love of reading. It may be objected to what is called a claſſical education, that it leaves us ignorant of thoſe characters and events which are moſt intereſting to us; that it directs the ardour and curioſity of young readers from the theatre of their own country, and from the great and illuſtrious perſons who have acted on it, to men who have figured in remote climes and periods: and with whoſe hiſtory, though certainly it be worth knowing, we are not ſo intimately connected. Reſpect is due to ſcience and virtue in all ages; and let them be preſented to the minds of youth ſo as to fire them with the nobleſt ambition; but let not our ſyſtems of inſtruction be ſuch that young men of genius ſhall contemplate with admiration the heroes of antiquity, while

obſcurity is ſuffered to reſt on that part of the temple of Fame which contains the worthies of their own country.

"To Britiſh Hiſtory, Chronology, and Biography, the attention of the Britiſh youth ought to be awakened; and while we wonder that more works have not been compiled with this intention, we would give to Dr. Mavor the praiſe and credit which are due to him for this agreeable biographical manual; and we would recommend it to the maſters of all our reſpectable ſchools. It is pleaſingly written; and the reflections interſperſed are calculated to inſpire a love of pure and generous principles, and an hatred of all ſuch as tend to degrade civilized man.

"At the head of each article, Dr. Mavor has very judiciouſly ſet down the time when the perſon who is the ſubject of it was born, and when he died; and if the death was a violent one, that circumſtance is ſpecified.

"The ſketches here exhibited are thoſe of Alfred the Great, Friar Bacon, John Wickliff, Geoffrey Chaucer, Cardinal Wolſey, Sir Thomas More, Cromwell Earl of Eſſex, Biſhop Latimer, Sebaſtian Cabot, Biſhop Jewell, Sir Thomas Greſham, the admirable Crighton, Sir Francis Walſingham, Sir Francis Drake, Lord Burleigh, William Shakeſpeare, Sir Walter Raleigh, Lord Bacon, Andrews Biſhop of Wincheſter, Sir Edward Coke, Earl of Strafford, John Hampden, Dr. William Harvey, Admiral Blake, Earl of Clarendon, John Milton, Andrew Marvel, Algernon Sydney, Archbiſhop Tillotſon, John Locke, Lord Chief Juſtice Holt, Biſhop Burnet, William Penn, Mr. Addiſon, the Duke of Marlborough, Sir Iſaac Newton, Sir Robert Walpole Earl of Orford, the Earl of Stair, Sir Hans Sloane, General Wolfe, Lord Anſon, the Earl of Hardwicke, Sir John Barnard, George Lord Littelton, Lord Clive, William Pitt Earl of Chatham, David Garrick, Captain James Cook, Sir William Blackſtone, Dr. Samuel Johnſon, Biſhop Lowth, and John Howard.

"Embracing the moſt eventful and important periods of Engliſh ſtory this rich variety of Biographical matter muſt prove acceptable to young readers, and to ſuch as thirſt for knowledge, which they are obliged to "ſnatch," as Pope ſays, "not take." The memoirs are introduced by judicious remarks from the pen of Dr. M.; ſome ſpecimens of which we think it may be gratifying to our readers to ſubjoin.

[Here the Reviewer extracts a variety of elegant paſſages, and then proceeds.]

"This Britiſh Nepos (the title and idea of which were ſuggeſted, as we need not tell the claſſical reader, by a Latin book much read in ſchools, entitled "The Lives of illuſtrious Per-

ſonages, by Cornelius Nepos," is preceded by an advertiſement, addreſſed to parents and tutors, in which Dr. Mavor, with a view of 'developing the latent faculties of judgment and reflection, and of impreſſing the youthful mind with right principles of action, recommends that each life be made the ſubject of an exerciſe to be written by the ſcholars, and preſented to their maſter once in a week, or oftener.' This hint is worth regarding. The example of the good and wiſe has always been conſidered as ſingularly conducive to virtue; and this mode of ſtudying biography muſt give it peculiar efficacy."

Extract from the CRITICAL REVIEW, for April, 1799.

"The Biography of illuſtrious men deſerves a more diſtinguiſhed rank than it has hitherto occupied in the ſyſtem of Britiſh education. We think Dr. Mavor's Nepos has many advantages to recommend it to extenſive circulation. It is compendious, and includes thoſe prominent characters of Britiſh excellence with which it is chiefly deſirable for our Youth to be acquainted. The ſtyle in which the lives are written may juſtly be commended."

Extract from the CHRISTIAN SPECTATOR, No. IX.

"From the plan and execution of this work, I am warranted in giving it a ſtrong recommendation, as being moſt admirably calculated to cheriſh the beſt and moſt tried principles in young minds. The perſons whoſe memoirs this judicious Biographer has ſelected for the improvement and entertainment of young perſons, are thoſe who have filled up the moſt important ſtations in ſociety with the greateſt glory to themſelves and advantage to the ſtate. The actions of theſe great men are told in a plain and pleaſing manner; and what is no ſmall difficulty in a work adapted for juvenile capacities, the incidental reflections ſuggeſted by particular circumſtances, or traits of character, are ſo naturally made, that the reader cannot but feel the effect of the example with a force equal to the pleaſure excited by the ſtory."

Extract from the NEW LONDON REVIEW, for February, 1799.

"The patterns of excellence here placed before the eyes of young minds, are all diſtinguiſhed by ſuch talents and virtues, as every parent would wiſh ſucceſsfully cultivated by his offſpring. The vices which here and there darken the picture, only render the luſtre of the whole the more ſufferable, and ſhade a brilliancy, otherwiſe both offenſive and inimitable. We know not, that from the ample circle of Britiſh biography, a more animating and improving ſelection could be made. The experience and acquiſitions of thoſe who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in almoſt every public and private walk of ſociety,

are thus held up, in minute traits, and beautifully coloured from nature, both for the entertainment and inſtruction of the riſing generation. And no exhibition occurs to our recollection, where a greater variety of uſeful and intereſting paintings from life, can be ſeen more readily, at leſs expence; or to which the young, of all deſcriptions, may repair, with a certainty of receiving both pleaſure and profit."

From the YOUNG GENTLEMAN's and LADY's MAGAZINE, for February, 1799.

"The ſelection is extremely judicious, and the execution is correſpondent. The principles throughout are entitled to our unqualified praiſe; and we have no doubt the author wrote with a view to the inculcation of thoſe maxims, civil, moral, and religious, which have raiſed Great Britain to ſuch an exalted height among the nations of the earth, and the obſervance of which alone can perpetuate her glory and her proſperity. Did our limits permit, we ſhould have been happy to have given one of the lives as a ſpecimen; but we have little doubt the whole will be read with avidity, and ſupercede the neceſſity of our recommendation."

From the LADIES' ANNUAL REGISTER, Page 130.

"A work of this deſcription has certainly been long wanted for the uſe of ſchools. It is a well-ſelected and correctly-written ſeries of lives, from that of Alfred the Great, to that of Howard the philanthropiſt. We notice it in the Ladies' Annual Regiſter, becauſe we deem it an excellent book for the ſchool-room, either in public ſeminaries or private families."

LADIES' MUSEUM, February, 1799.

"The characters here exhibited are very happily compreſſed, and diſplay a neatneſs ſurpaſſing any of our author's preceding labours. The ſelection is made with judgment, and the abſtract of each life is a collection of traits ſo happily placed, as to have the beſt effect on young minds. In ſhort, we have here a very inſtructive compilation, both for old and young. It contains a great deal both of public and private hiſtory; and to the riſing generation the leſſons it teaches, and the information it affords, are of the laſt importance."

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